



**ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE
MONITORING COMMITTEE OF THE CDCC**
10 April 2003, San Juan, Puerto Rico

GENERAL
LC/CAR/G.726
MONCOM 11/4
3 April 2003
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

**SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS RECENTLY ADOPTED BY ORGANS
OF THE UNITED NATIONS WHICH MAY BE OF SPECIAL INTEREST
TO MEMBER COUNTRIES OF ECLAC/CDCC**

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**SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS RECENTLY ADOPTED BY ORGANS
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Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalisation and interdependence (A/RES/57/274)

The resolution recalled other resolutions and major summits which promoted the role of the United Nations in the context of globalisation and interdependence.

It expresses concern about the marginalization of a large number of developing countries from the benefits of globalisation and the "*general accentuation of the income and technological gap between developed and developing countries, as well as within countries.*"

It recognises that globalisation and interdependence are opening new opportunities in trade, investment, capital flows, information technology and other areas, but acknowledges that appropriate policy responses have to be in place to take advantage of these. It therefore requests the support of the international community to assist the least developed countries to increase their national capacities. It notes the need to address the "*imbalances and asymmetries in international finance, trade, technology and investment patterns.*" and calls for an enabling environment for developing countries to become fully integrated into the international economy.

The resolution recognises the unique place of the United Nations in being able to promote international cooperation and realises that only within a "*shared future based upon a common humanity in all its diversity, can globalisation be fully inclusive and equitable.*" The resolution underlines the importance of investing in basic economic social infrastructure to make globalisation workable, and support for capacity building in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. To facilitate development and poverty eradication, one must have "*good governance within each country and at the international level. Sound economic policies, solid democratic institutions responsive to the needs of the people and improved infrastructure are the basis for sustained economic growth, poverty eradication and employment creation*" further, "*transparency in the financial, monetary and trading systems and the commitment to an open, equitable, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading and financial system are equally essential.*"

It notes and encourages the reform of the world's financial architecture taking place and encourages international lending institutions to follow suit. The resolution stresses adherence to agreements, commitments and measures that States have signed on to create a more stable environment for developing countries.

Ensuring effective secretariat support for sustained follow-up to the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development (A/RES/57/273)

The resolution recalls the importance for sustained follow-up to the Monterrey Conference and the need for secretariat support from the United Nations system, and reaffirmed that *"..the Conference constituted a new approach by the international community and that its implementation and follow-up should be given a very high priority in the economic and social work of the United Nations..."*

It then asks the Secretary-General to collaborate with appropriate institutions to set up a framework to facilitate follow-up support to the Conference and that the *"..functions of the new secretariat support structure should be of an integrating, cross-cutting and holistic nature.."*

The resolution invites all Member States and *"..all institutional and non-institutional stakeholders in the financing for development process to extend their full support to and cooperate fully with the new secretariat support structure in fulfilling its tasks.."*

Information and communication technologies for development (A/RES/57/295)

The resolution makes reference to the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted at the Millennium Summit on 8 September 2002, in which member States resolved to ensure that new technologies, *"..especially information and communication technologies.."*, are made available to all nations.

The resolution notes that this availability is recognized as an important aspect for development and *"..affirms the need to use these technologies to.....enhance the efficiency, effectiveness and impact of the development programmes and technical cooperation activities of the United Nations system.."*, realising the important role that information and communications technologies can play in facilitating coordination and synergy between programmes and activities of the United Nations systems.

Thus, the Secretary General is requested to work with the relevant bodies within the United Nations system to *"..develop a comprehensive information and communication technologies strategy"* for the United Nations, thereby encouraging a system-wide application of the use of these technologies, and enhancing the capacity of the United Nations to *"..create, share and disseminate information..."* for more effective and efficient delivery of services.

Further, the strategy should build collaborative networks and communities, develop common platforms for services such as databases, documentation and meetings, promote sharing of information and experiences between the United Nations and its member States and engage in *"..comprehensive system-wide training programmes.."* to facilitate the advantageous use of the new technologies.

Industrial Development Cooperation (A/RES/57/243)

The resolution recalls other resolutions on industrial development cooperation, dating back to 1991 and the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted by the heads of States and Governments in September 2000. The resolution also notes that the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) has been awarded "*... by the Global Environment Facility Council the status of an executing agency with expanded opportunities of the Global Environment Facility..*"

The role of the business community including the private sector in enhancing the process of the development of the industrial sector as is the importance of direct foreign investment. It also cites as a necessity, the transfer of technology to the developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in the pursuit of poverty eradication and sustainable development.

The resolution reiterates that industrialisation is a key element in the promotion of sustainable development and underlines the "*...importance of industrial development cooperation and a positive investment and business climate at the international, regional, subregional and national levels in promoting the expansion, diversification and modernisation of productive capacities in developing countries and countries with economies in transition..*".

In order to provide a favourable international environment for industrialisation, governments are urged to promote transparent and accountable industrialisation policies to facilitate developing countries and countries with economies in transition to "*...augment and supplement domestic resources for the expansion, diversification and modernisation of their industrial production capacity in the context of an open, non-discriminatory, transparent, multi-lateral and rule-based trading system...*".

The resolution reaffirms that with the appropriate linkages, industry can contribute to social development and be a powerful source of "*...employment generation, income creation and social integration required for the eradication of poverty..*" and calls for continuing use of official development assistance and cooperation between donors and recipients to achieve greater efficiency and effectiveness in the use of these resources; it calls for the building of partnerships among developing countries themselves and those with economies in transition, but this does not preclude the need to make funds available at the country level and the procurement of funds from relevant development finance institutions.

The resolution welcomes the membership of UNIDO in the United Nations Development Group and calls upon it to strengthen cooperation with other institutions within the United Nations systems to enhance its effectiveness, and to facilitate coordination "*...at the field level through the common country assessments and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework processes and sector-wide approaches..*" UNIDO is also asked to implement appropriate projects through the Global Environment Facility, to facilitate industrial development with emphasis "*...on initiatives to support micro, small and medium-sized enterprises of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in particular least developed countries and landlocked developing countries..*" and "*...to contribute actively to the achievements of the objectives of the New partnership for Africa's development.*"

The resolution further encourages UNIDO according to its mandate to enhance "*...a common understanding of global and regional industrial sector issues and their impact on poverty eradication and sustainable development, and calls for further strengthening of the demand-driven integrated programme at the field level...*" and also welcomes the current discussions among the States members of the UNIDO on programme priorities, and the substance of programmes, in order to ensure a more "*...focussed, effective and efficient organization capable of delivering concrete outcomes, and to gain better recognition and stronger support in the international community.*"

International Trade and Development (RES/57/57/235)

The resolution makes reference to several meetings and documents, including prior resolutions, namely 55/182 of December 2000 and 56/178 of December 2001 as well as the Plan of Action adopted at the tenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Bangkok, 12-15 February 2000.

The resolution reiterates the importance of trade liberalisation and notes that the efforts made by developing countries to adapt their market to trade liberalisation, would be more effective if matched by enhanced and predictable market access for their main export priorities in goods and services and therefore rejects "*...the use of protectionism...*". To further facilitate the benefits from trade, which in many cases is the most important source of development financing "*....balanced rules and well targeted, sustainably financed technical assistance and capacity-building programmes for developing countries also play important roles...*".

The resolution reaffirms the commitments of the Ministerial Declaration of the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the WTO, to give special focus to the needs of developing countries and expresses concern over the adoption of unilateral actions which continue to hamper the exports from developing countries in particular; it does however recognise the measures taken to increase market access for developing and least developed countries consonant with the rules of the WTO. Developed countries are strongly requested to work towards the "*...objective of duty-free, quota-free market access for all least developed countries exports...*".

Recognising that the trade rules and issues in the post-Doha framework should have a clear development content, the resolution notes the intention to take concrete actions to review the difficulties and resource constraints being experienced by developing countries and takes into account the need to clarify and improve disciplines in the areas of anti-dumping, subsidies and countervailing measures.

Special mention is made of the Agreement on Agriculture, and takes note that all negotiations in this area should take into account the food security and rural development needs of developing and least developed countries.

In the negotiations in the trade and services section there should be no a priori exclusion of any service sector or mode of supply, but takes note that certain non trade concerns are also relevant with respect to application of the rules of the WTO.

The issue of trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights is also of special concern and it is affirmed that the application of the rules within this area should not prejudice the access to medicines or be non supportive of public health aspirations.

The resolutions notes the concerns raised by least developed countries and realises that their integration into the multilateral trading system "*...requires meaningful market access, support for diversification of their production and export-base and trade related assistance and capacity-building..*" and commits to actively pursue the work programme of the WTO towards addressing the trade-related issues and concerns affecting the fuller integration of small, vulnerable economies into the multilateral trading system. In this context, mention is made to the commitment to the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing. It stresses that preferences granted to developing countries "*...pursuant to the Decision of the Contracting Parties on Differential and More Favourable Treatment, Reciprocity and Fuller Participation of Developing Countries (28 November 1979 , the "Enabling Clause"), should be generalised, non-reciprocal and non-discriminatory....*"

The resolution notes that health and environment-related measures that have an impact on exports, but stresses that the adoption of any measures necessary "*...to protect human, animal or plant life should not be applied in a manner that would constitute arbitrary or unjustified discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade, and recognises the importance of capacity-building support for developing countries...*" and encourages measures that "*...simplify make more transparent the domestic regulations and procedures that affect trade..*" so as to assist exporters from developing countries. It expresses satisfaction with the increased cooperation between UNCTAD and the WTO and invites donors, bilateral and multilateral institutions as well as other countries in a position to do so to contribute to relevant trust funds for capacity building in developing and least developed countries to deliver effective and demand driven assistance. The resolution also makes mention of the ongoing cooperation among the secretariats (in the field of technical assistance) of the WTO, "*...the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, The United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant international developmental and environmental organizations...*"

The Role of the United Nations in promoting a new global human order (A/RES/57/12)

The resolution hearkens to the commitment of the United Nations to achieving agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and "*...in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences held and the international agreements reached since 1992...*". It stresses the need for broad based consensus for action towards the achievement of the goals of development and poverty eradication and recognises the need for the involvement of "*...Governments, the United Nations system and other international*

organizations and relevant actors of civil society, including the private sector and non-governmental organizations.."

The resolution also notes the proposal regarding a new global human order, calls for a further elaboration of the proposal and *"...invites Member States and other stakeholders to submit proposals for consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session..."*

Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (A/RES/57/262)

The resolution cites several resolutions pertaining to Small Island Developing States (SIDS) including the Declaration of Barbados and the Programme of Action for Small Island Developing States. It also notes the emphasis given to Small Island States in the Johannesburg Declaration on sustainable development as well and the Johannesburg Plan of Action.

The resolution commends the establishment of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Countries and Small Island Developing States. It reiterates the efforts being made by Small Island Developing States to achieve sustainable development in spite of specific problems arising from small size and, in some cases, remoteness, and points to new challenges that have arisen with respect to their effective participation in the multilateral financial and trading systems; the resolution notes in addition the importance of the development of a vulnerability index as a tool towards determining the vulnerability of SIDS, and identifying the challenges to their sustainable development; it urges all relevant organizations to finalise by 2004, the work on the vulnerability index.

The resolution further points to the need for regional and global institutions to supplement the initiatives of SIDS, especially with respect to projects presented for financial support at the meeting of Representatives of donor countries and SIDS held in New York from 24 - 26 February 1999.

In light of this, the resolution recognises the urgent need for the full and effective implementation of the SIDS PoA and the Declaration of Barbados, and requests the relevant organs and agencies of the United Nations system to join in the effort. In this vein the resolution calls for the convening of an international meeting in 2004 to review the state of implementation of the SIDS PoA, at which a renewed political commitment by all countries will be requested. This meeting will focus on pragmatic and practical actions towards further implementation of the SIDS PoA, through the mobilisation of resources and assistance for small island developing States.

In preparation for the international meeting, preparatory meetings will be held for the African, Pacific and Caribbean SIDS, including associate members of regional commissions, and the relevant United Nations agencies are requested to assist in convening these meetings.

The resolution also decided to establish a voluntary fund for the purpose of assisting the least developed of the SIDS to participate in the preparatory phases and in the international

meeting, inviting contributions from governments, intergovernmental organizations and major groups accredited to the Commission on Sustainable Development.

At an administrative level a request is made for the regularisation of the post of Interregional Adviser for SIDS, contained within the SIDS Unit of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat

Convention on Biological Diversity (A/RES/260)

The resolution reaffirms that the Convention on Biological Diversity remains the "*key international instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources...*"

The resolutions underlines the importance of the local knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples, the involvement of such peoples, the protection of their knowledge and the equitable sharing of benefits derived from the use of such skills. The resolutions recalls the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the corresponding Plan of Implementation, and notes with interest the types of partnerships being voluntarily being undertaken by some governments in accordance with the provisions of biological diversity.

The resolution encourages parties to the Convention to ratify or accede to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biodiversity as soon as possible.

It notes in addition the importance of the rules within the World Trade Organization (WTO) that relate to intellectual property matters, and their importance to the implementation of the parts of the convention related to the protection of local or traditional knowledge.

The resolution recalls the commitments made at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) concerning the pursuance of activities such that, by 2010 there is a "*...significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity...*", but recognises that this will "*...require the provision of new and additional financial and technical resources to developing countries...*" and in this regard "*...calls upon the international community to provide the necessary support...*" The resolution also sees the need for an "*...international regime to promote and safeguard the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources...*" bearing in mind the Bonn Guidelines.

The resolutions notes the close working relationships between the secretariats concerned with climate change, desertification and biological diversity and encourages such cooperation and recalls the commitment to an expanded action oriented work programme on forest diversity, undertaken at the WSSD.

The resolution calls upon the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to continue to work closely with the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and its Fund (replenished for the third time) to help developing countries and countries with economies in

transition to attain the required national capacities to prepare for entry into force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

Protection of the global climate for present and future generations of mankind (A/RES/57/257)

The resolution notes that most States have acceded to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which acknowledges the global nature of climate change, a situation which calls for "*..the widest possible cooperation by all countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities...*".

It notes in this regard that all countries but most especially least developed countries and small island developing states "*..faced increased risks from the negative impact of climate change....*".

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration in which heads of State and Government resolved to ensure the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol, preferably by 2002, it strongly urges countries that have not ratified the Kyoto Protocol to do so, and notes with appreciation the greater cooperation between secretariats of related conventions on biodiversity, (e.g. those concerned with drought, desertification and biodiversity) and requests the conference of parties to the multilateral environmental convention to set convening dates; this should take into consideration the schedule of meetings of the General Assembly and the Commission on Sustainable development "*...so as to ensure the adequate representation of developing countries at these meetings.....*".

International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (A/RES/256)

This resolution emphasises the multisectoral, interdisciplinary and cross-cutting nature of natural disaster reduction and expresses concern over the loss of life and long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences for vulnerable and, in particular, developing countries; it recognises that reducing the vulnerability of a country to natural disasters is an integral part of attempting to achieve sustainable development.

The resolution stresses the need for governments to continue to cooperate and coordinate efforts in line with their capacities, from "*..prevention to early warning, response, mitigation, rehabilitation and reconstruction....*". It urges their cooperation with the United Nations system and other international, regional and non-governmental partners in this effort. There is distinguished, a need to make use of modern technologies to reduce vulnerability to natural disasters and to ensure that developing countries have access to these technologies, in addition to understanding the socio-economic activities that exacerbate the vulnerability of societies. The resolution notes the importance accorded to disaster reduction in the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation proceeding from the conference,

and welcomes the memorandum of understanding between the secretariat of the International Strategy or Disaster Reduction and the United Nations Development Programme.

The resolution requests the Secretary-General, utilising assistance from the secretariat for the strategy, and in consultation with governments, relevant organizations of the United Nations system and the international financial institutions, to coordinate the 2004 review of the Yokohama Strategy; further the resolution encourages "*..the international community to provide the necessary financial resources to the Trust Fund for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and to provide the necessary scientific, technical, human and other resources to ensure adequate support for the activities of the inter-agency secretariat for the Strategy and the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction and its working groups.....*"

United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (A/RES/57/254)

The resolution recalls chapter 36 of Agenda 21 (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 1992), which focused on promoting education, public awareness and training and brings to mind the internationally agreed development goal to achieving universal primary education by the year 2015. In addition it notes that the "Johannesburg Plan of Implementation" confirmed the importance of education for sustainable development and "*decides to proclaim the ten year period beginning 1 January 2005 the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.....*".

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is designated the lead agency for the promotion of the Decade and it is requested to develop a draft international implementation scheme, bearing especially in mind the Dakar Framework for Action adopted at the World Education Forum, and the United Nations Literacy Decade.

Governments should be guided by this yet to be developed international implementation scheme and UNESCO is invited to consult with "*...the United Nations and other relevant international organizations, governments, non governmental organizations and other stakeholders, with a view to providing recommendations for Governments on how to promote and improve the integration of education for sustainable development in their respective educational strategies and plans at the appropriate level.*"

World Summit on Sustainable Development (57/253)

The resolution brings to mind various resolutions especially 55/199 of December 2000 and 56/226 of December 2001 and recalls the documents arising from the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED, 1992) and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and reaffirms "*..the need to ensure a balance between economic development, social development and environmental protection as interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable development..*". Further, it recognises the need for good governance within each country and at the international level to facilitate the process. It points to the necessity of poverty eradication, proper management of the natural resource base and the

eradication of unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, to ensure the sustainability of development activities. In fact the resolutions *"...decides to adopt sustainable development as a key element of the overarching framework for United Nations activities..."*

In this vein it urges all governments and relevant international, regional and United Nations agencies and funds to *"..ensure the effective implementation of and follow-up the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Johannesburg Plan of Action"*.

It calls for the implementation of commitments, programmes and time-bound targets adopted at the Summit and requests the Social Council to implement those aspects of the Plan of Action relevant to its mandate, while calling upon the Secretary-General *"..to take into full account the outcomes of the Summit, in particular the decisions made on the institutional framework for sustainable development as contained in chapter XI of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, in the ongoing process of reform of the United Nations and in his contribution to the integrated and co-ordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields.."*

Follow-up to the outcome of the twenty-sixth special session: Implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS (A/RES/57/299)

The resolution proposes that the targets set in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS are *"..integrally linked to the attainment of development goals set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration"*.

The resolution realises the critical role that civil society has to play in the response to HIV/AIDS and, in particular, to those who are infected and decides to convene a day of high-level plenary meetings following the general debate at the fifty-eight session of the General Assembly, while an informal interactive panel discussion will be held in parallel with the afternoon plenary session; the summary of the latter will be presented at the end of the debate at the plenary. Many other organizations and representatives, including groups from civil society, pharmaceutical companies, those representing persons living with AIDS, among others, are to be invited to the discussions.

The resolution further requests the Secretary-General to *"..prepare a comprehensive and analytical report on progress achieved in realising the commitments set out in the Declaration of Commitment, with a view to identifying problems and constraints and making recommendations on action needed to make further progress..."*.

Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (RES/57/57/229)

The resolution stresses the important role that non-governmental organizations are playing in the work of the committee and reaffirms the need to protect and obtain equal and

effective enjoyment of all human rights for persons with disabilities and the contribution that a convention can make in this regard.

The resolution encourages States to hold discussions on the issue of disabled persons with relevant United Nations organizations as well as non governmental organizations and requests the Secretary General to continue to provide facilities for the Ad Hoc Committee to continue its work as well as to seek the views of "*...Member States, observer States, relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, including relevant human rights treaty bodies and the Special Rapporteur...*" on proposals for the convention, including its nature, structure and content.

The resolution also urges that efforts be made to ensure the active participation of non governmental organizations in the Ad Hoc Committee in accordance with resolution 56/510 of 23 July 2002 and further encourages member States to involve persons with disabilities in their delegations in meetings with the Ad Hoc Committee and "*...decides to establish a voluntary fund to support the participation of non governmental organizations and experts from developing countries, in particular from least developed countries...*" and "*...invites Governments, civil society and the private sector to contribute to the voluntary fund*".

Elimination of all forms of violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: Gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century." (A/RES/57/181)

The resolution draws attention to the Charter of the United Nations which declares the fundamental human rights and freedoms of all without distinction or prejudice, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and various other landmark conferences and resolutions. It also reminds of the obligations of States to guarantee and protect these freedoms, and cites other agreements, conventions and resolutions that mandate the responsibility of the State in this regard.

In the context of the types of discrimination suffered by women, special attention is drawn to "*...commercial sexual exploitation as well as economic exploitation, including trafficking in women and children, female infanticide, crimes committed in the name of honour, crimes committed in the name of passion, racially motivated crimes, abduction and sale of children, dowry related violence and deaths, acid attacks and harmful traditional or customary practices, such as female genital mutilation and early and forced marriages...*"

It notes the continued persistence of such practices and stresses that all forms of violence against women are obstacles to their advancement and achievement and violates or nullifies their enjoyment of their fundamental human rights and freedoms; these should be treated as criminal offences punishable by law and in this vein welcomes specific legal and comprehensive legislative measures being enacted and contemplated.

The resolution welcomes the "*...launching of various initiatives, strategies, and action plans aimed at, among other things, eradication, prevention, promotion, information, legislation,*

protection, welfare, education and research, enhancement of the economic capacity of women and the monitoring of various forms of violence against women."

It urges member States to strengthen awareness and preventative measures for the elimination of gender directed violence, to fulfil their obligations under the human rights instruments and to implement the Beijing Plan of Action, while expressing appreciation for the work done by non-governmental organizations in raising awareness of the prevalence and the social, economic and psychological costs these acts of violence incur to a society; in this context States are urged to report data as far as possible in a sex-disaggregated manner.

Relevant United Nations entities are requested to assist countries in carrying out their mandates in dealing with the problem of discrimination against women and in this regard the resolution expresses appreciation "*..of the work being done by the United Nations Population fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Development Fund for Women and other relevant funds and programmes aimed at preventing and eliminating violence against women and girls..*"

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/RES/57/178)

Recalling the Charter of the United Nations regarding the universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction of any kind, including distinction as to sex and "*..affirming that women and men should participate equally in social, economic and political development.. and should correspondingly make equal contributions*". There is an acknowledgement of the need for a comprehensive and integrated approach to the promotion and protection of human rights of women.

The resolution recalls that in the Millennium Declaration, the heads of State and Government resolved to implement the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, and is disappointed that full ratification has not yet been achieved and urges all States who have not done so to accede/ratify as quickly as possible, and expresses concerns about the remaining challenges to full ratification. The resolution also emphasises the "*..importance of full compliance by States parties with their obligations under the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto....*"

The resolution notes that some States have reservations concerning certain aspects of the Convention and urges State parties to limit the extent of any reservations as far as possible, and state them as narrowly and precisely as possible, while ensuring that they are not contrary to the object and purpose of the Convention. It encourages the Secretariat to extend technical assistance to States to assist those which may require such, in the preparation of country reports and urges "*..Governments, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to disseminate the Convention and Optional Protocol thereto...*"

Further it enjoins the relevant entities of the United Nations system "*..to continue to build women's knowledge and understanding of and the capacity to utilise human rights instruments, in particular the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto..*"

International cooperation against the world drug problem (RES/57/57/174)

The resolution welcomes the continuing "*..determination of Governments to overcome the world drug problem by a full and balanced application of national, regional and international strategies to reduce the demand for, production of and trafficking in illicit drugs...*" but remains gravely concerned that the drug threat still remains a challenge of global dimensions constituting a serious threat to humankind, especially young persons.

Further the drug trade undermines development, continuing to "*..threaten seriously socio-economic and political systems, democratic institutions and the stability, national security and sovereignty of States, especially those involved in conflicts and wars.....*"

It notes with alarm the violence used and the economic power of the criminal organizations involved in the drug trade which necessitates enhanced international cooperation and implementation of effective strategies.

The resolution emphasises the importance of the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction, which "*..introduces a new global approach balanced between illicit supply and demand reduction, under the principle of shared responsibility, and of the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the eradication of Illicit Drugs Crops and on Alternative Development, which recognises the importance of supply reduction as an integral part of a balanced drug control strategy..*"

The resolution notes that efforts are being made by countries which produce narcotics for medicinal use, and recognises that in some cases the eradication of illicit drug production means providing alternative sustainable activities for the persons affected, but nevertheless expresses concern at the lenient policies adopted by some countries in dealing with those who use illicit drugs. However the resolution stresses that respect for all human rights must be an essential component of any measure adopted to combat the drug problem.

It also notes that there is link between drug use and HIV infections and in this vein sees the Declaration of commitment on HIV/AIDS as a source of assistance to combating the drug problem, as does the accessibility of new technologies and the electronic media. Civil society and non governmental organizations also have important roles to play in countering the world drug problem.

The resolution enjoins upon all efforts the respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States. It further urges all member States to implement the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction, recognises the role of the relevant United Nations agencies in combating the drug menace and requests that they assist member States in

implementing the Action Plan, especially in capacity building to counter illicit drug trafficking. Developing countries and States affected by illicit crop cultivation need special attention.

The international community is encouraged to open their markets to products from States which are part of the "*...alternative development programmes and that are necessary for the creation of employment and the eradication of poverty...*" and such States are encouraged to take precautions to prevent illicit crop cultivation from emerging in, or being relocated to, other areas, regions, or countries. States are further urged to assign priority to policies and programmes targeted at young persons and make appropriate treatment and rehabilitation accessible to children and adolescents, and to produce measures to address the linkages between the traffic in small arms and light weapons and illicit drug traffic.

The resolution draws attention to the "*....United Nations Convention against Transitional Organised Crime and the three Protocols thereto, namely the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air and the Protocol against Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition..*", encouraging universal ratification of these to assist in combating the illegal drug trade.

Within the United Nations system, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs has the role as the "*...principal United Nations policy-making body on drug control issues..*", being "*...the governing body of the United Nations International Drug Control Program..*" and recognition is given to the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Program to coordinate and provide effective leadership for all drug control programs of the United Nations system.

As such the Program is requested to strengthen dialogue with member States to ensure more effective delivery of services and to increase its assistance to countries that are deploying efforts to reduce illicit crop cultivation and to strengthen dialogue with multilateral development banks and international financial institutions to facilitate lending activities related to drug control in affected and interested countries.

The resolution requests the publication of the World Drug Report and seeks additional extrabudgetary resources for its publication in all official languages and urges all governments to provide the fullest possible financial and political support to the Programme by "*...widening its donor base and increasing voluntary contributions, to enable it to continue, expand and strengthen its operational and technical cooperation activities..*" and encourages Member States to "*...commit themselves in a common effort to assigning adequate and sufficient budgetary resources to the (International Narcotics Control) Board..*"

The resolution reaffirmed the deep concern over the impact of transnational organized crime on the "*...political, social and economic stability and development of societies..*" and believes that the Convention and the attendant Protocols constitute important guidelines for effective international cooperation.

It commends the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the Office on Drugs and Crime of the Secretariat for *"its work in promoting the ratification of the Convention and the Protocols thereto.."*, and welcomes the financial support provided by several donors to promote the early entry into force of the Convention and the Protocols and *"..further encourages member States to make sufficient voluntary contributions to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice fund for the provision of technical assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition for the implementation of those international legal instruments.."* and requests the Secretary General to provide the necessary funding to enable the Centre to effectively promote the *"..entry into force and implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto.."*.

Follow up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing (A/RES57/167)

The resolution draws attention to the International Plan of Action on Ageing endorsed in resolution 37/51 and the United Nations Principles for Older persons, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1991, which *"..provided guidance in the areas of independence, participation, care, self-fulfilment and dignity..."*

In considering the report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing (8-12 April 2002 in Madrid, Spain), it endorses the Action Plan developed therefrom and calls upon governments to take the necessary steps to implement the Plan of Action.

The resolution points to three key points that should dictate actions towards older persons, namely older persons in the scheme of development, advancing health and well-being into old age and ensuring enabling and supportive environments.

The Madrid Plan of Action also indicates that older persons everywhere should be able to age with security and dignity and *"..to continue in their societies as citizens with full rights..."*, and calls for enhanced international cooperation in this effort. International financial institutions and regional development banks are asked *"...to examine and adjust their lending and grant practices so as to ensure that older persons are recognised as a development resource and are taken into account in their policies and projects as part of efforts to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition..."*

The Secretary General is requested to make the necessary resource allocations to improve the institutional capacity of the United Nations system to enable it to fulfil the Madrid Plan of Action, especially in the allocations to the Programme on Ageing of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat. The Division remains the United Nations' focal point for the ageing agenda. Regional commissions are urged to continue to review the Plan of Action so as to develop regional plans of Action and to assist national institutions.

The resolution states that progress in the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action is contingent upon *"...effective partnership among Governments, all parts of civil society and the private sector, as well as an enabling environment based, inter alia, on democracy, the rule of*

law, respect for all human rights, fundamental freedoms and good governance at all levels, including the national and international levels.."

The resolution acknowledges the preparation of a road map for the implementation of the Plan of Action and invites all relevant actors to contribute to its preparation and further urges all member States and other actors to contribute generously to the United Nations Trust Fund for Ageing "*..to support activities undertaken in follow-up to the Second World Assembly on ageing, including technical cooperation to promote the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action.*"

Promoting Youth Employment (RES/57/57/165)

The resolution reaffirms the United Nations Millennium Declaration that calls for the development and implementation of strategies that "*..will give young people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work..*" and further, recognises young people as an asset for sustainable economic growth and social development.

The resolution also notes the "*..Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes adopted at the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth in 1998, which set forth important commitments regarding youth employment..*" and welcomed the Secretary General's initiative to create a Youth Employment Network.

It expresses "*..deep concern about the magnitude of youth unemployment underemployment throughout the world and its profound implications for the future of our societies....*".

It enjoins Member States to prepare national reviews and action plans on youth employment and to involve youth organizations and young people in this process.." *following upon the commitments made by Member States in this regard and "..those included in the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond"*

Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly. (A/RES/57/57/163)

The resolution reaffirms that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and its attendant Programme of Action remains the basic framework for the promotion of social development for all at the national and international levels. It also names several other commitments made at major United Nations conferences, special sessions, summit conferences and their follow up processes.

The resolutions reaffirms the ideals of the Copenhagen Declaration which puts people at the centre of the concerns "*..for sustainable development and pledged to eradicate poverty, promote full and productive employment and foster social integration so as to achieve stable, safe and just societies for all....*".

It recognises that many of the goals and commitments contained in the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty fourth session of the General Assembly have been echoed in the outcomes of subsequent international summits and conferences including "*...the Millennium Assembly, the International Conference on Financing for Development, the Second World Assembly on Ageing and the World Summit on Sustainable development...*"

In spite of the actions to achieve the goals of the several United Nations summits and sessions, "*...greater social justice and improved equity in societies will also be required...*"

The resolution calls for effective partnership and cooperation between governments and the relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector in the implementation and follow up to the Copenhagen Declaration and its Programme of action.

It also calls upon all relevant United Nations organizations, including the regional commissions to "*...continue to integrate their work programmes and give priority attention to the commitments and undertakings...*" of the Declaration and its Programme of Action.

Finally it "*...welcomes the contribution of the Commission for social Development in the follow-up and the review of the further implementation of the commitments made in Copenhagen and the further initiatives agreed upon in Geneva, reaffirms that the Commission will continue to have primary responsibility in this regard and encourages Governments, the relevant specialised agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and civil society to continue to support its work...*"

United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage, 2002 (A/RES/57/158)

The resolution recalls certain Conventions dealing with the protection of cultural and natural heritage inclusive also of the 1989 Recommendation on the Safeguarding of Traditional Culture and Folklore and the 2001 Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity. In this vein it welcomes "*...the ratification of the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage by one hundred and seventy-five parties...*" and in addition the inscription of more than 730 sites on the World Heritage List.

The resolution notes the need to protect heritage sites to foster the "*...promotion of mutual understanding and enrichment among cultures and civilisations...*". It refers to the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation which subscribes to the concept of sustainable tourism; one of the tenets of this type of activity is the protection of ecologically sensitive areas and natural heritages by the enhancement of international cooperation.

The resolution notes the work undertaken by UNESCO including its international campaigns and invites other "*...States, observers, relevant United Nations bodies...other international organizations and relevant non-governmental organizations to intensify the*

implementation of programmes, activities and projects aimed at the promotion and protection of the world cultural heritage..."

While declaring the United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage closed, it nevertheless also invites member States and observers to continue to promote education and public awareness of national and world cultural heritage and requests UNESCO to explore possible ways to intensify international cooperation in this regard by *"...considering the merits of convening an international conference on strengthening and consolidating international mechanisms for safeguarding and protecting the world cultural heritage...."*

Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands (A/RES/57/138)

A

The resolution notes in a particular the *"...relevant chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.."* and recognises that *"..the specific characteristics and sentiments of the peoples of the Territories (those named in the resolution) require flexible, practical and innovative approaches to the options of self-determination, without any prejudice to territorial size, geographical location, size of population or natural resources..."*

The resolution expresses concern that after 40 years the Declaration on the Granting of independence to Colonial Countries and peoples, there *"...still remain a number of Non-Self-Governing Territories...."*

It notes the target set by the United Nations, which is to eradicate colonialism by 2010; nevertheless it acknowledges the significant achievements of the international community towards the eradication of colonialism and the *"...positive developments in some Non-Self-Governing Territories..."*, It however reaffirms that it is ultimately for the peoples of the Territories to decide their future status. It engenders the promotion of economic stability and *"...diversifying and strengthening further the economies of the respective Territories as a matter of priority..."*

The resolution notes that the use of referendums *"....free and fair elections and other forms of popular consultation..."* are valid methods for ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the people and offers the available assistance of United Nations visiting missions to assist in these and other matters pertaining to self governance. It also pays tribute to the relevant United Nations agencies, development banks and regional bodies that assist in this effort, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the Caribbean Community among those mentioned.

Concern is expressed that in 2001, economic growth slowed in many Non-Self-Governing Territories, particularly in tourism and the construction sectors.

The Administering Powers are called upon to secure the environments of the territories from degradation and to take necessary measures to counter problems related to drug trafficking, money-laundering and other offences and notes in the latter case efforts by the territories to "*..address the problems related to drug-trafficking, money laundering and other offences.....*" A call is made "*..for an enhanced and constructive dialogue between the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the territorial governments concerned, with a view to achieving the highest standards of financial supervision...*" , requesting the Administering Powers to assist in this matter.

Further, Administering Powers are to foster an "*.... awareness among the people of their right to self-determination in conformity with the legitimate political status options, based on the principles clearly defined in General Assembly Resolution 1541 (XV)*", reaffirming that in the process of decolonization, there "*..is no alternative to the principle of self-determination, which is also a fundamental human right...*"

The resolution notes that the Plan of Action of the First International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism was not fully implemented by 2000 and urges periodic review of the impact of the economic and social situation on the constitutional and political advancement of the Territories. Further, member States are encouraged to support the decolonization thrust, and specialised agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system are to "*..continue to take all the necessary measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social life of the territories..*"

B

Anguilla: the resolution acknowledges the commitment of the territorial government and Administering Power to "*..a new and closer policy of dialogue and partnership through the Strategic Country Programme 2000-2003*"; the joint cooperation is also observed in the cooperation of tackling the problems of drug trafficking and money laundering. This is in tandem with an attempt being made internally to develop the Territory as a viable, well-regulated offshore financial centre.

The resolution notes the drop in economic performance in the year 2000, caused by hurricane damage the previous year but sees that signs of recovery are already apparent, as reported by the CDB. The resolution welcomes the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the CDB and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to conduct a poverty assessment for the territory.

A Constitution reform process, which involves public information and education to create a participatory environment, is regarded in a positive light as is the association and closeness the territory enjoys as an associate member of the OECS.

British Virgin Islands: The resolution notes the last constitutional review conducted by the Administering Power in 1993-1994, and the appointment of a committee to assess the implications of independence; further, the territory has called for the devolution of power from the representative of the Administering Power to the elected Government.

The territory remains one of the world's leading offshore financial centres, has shown commitment to combat money laundering and drug trafficking and maintains a close relationship with United States Virgin Islands. The resolution requests the Administering Powers to bear in mind the views of the people of the Territory, ascertained through the democratic process and calls upon "*...the specialised agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and all financial institutions to continue to provide the territory with assistance for socio-economic development and the development of human resources...*" and welcomes the "*...convening in the Territory in 2001 of a summit of elected leaders of Caribbean territories, which addressed issues of constitution and governance, immigration and nationality, human rights, social development, civil aviation and safety and environmental issues...*"

Montserrat: The resolution takes cognisance of the last elections of the Legislative Council held in 2001 and the fact that the last visiting mission to the Territory was dispatched in 1982.

It draws attention to the great dislocation caused by the volcanic eruptions, and in this vein welcomes the assistance given by State members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), singling out Antigua and Barbuda for special mention, and also acknowledging the part played by the Administering Power in implementing a wide range of contingency measures.

The inclusion of the territory by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in its 2001-2003 subregional framework for the country members of the OECS and Barbados is seen as a welcome development.

The resolution notes the establishment "*...in 2001 of the Montserrat Financial Services Commission which is responsible for the licensing and supervision of all financial services, with the exception of domestic banks...*", the first recorded domestic economic growth over the last seven years. It acknowledges the material and financial support received by Montserrat to alleviate the human crisis from the international community and urges the continuance of the latter.

The resolution welcomes the establishment of the Constitutional Review Commission which will "*...embark on a public education programme on the Constitution...*" *and will ascertain the views of the population and make recommendations to the Administering Power as recommended in the White Paper "Partnership for Progress and Prosperity: Britain and the Overseas Territories...."*

United States Virgin Islands: The resolution noted the interest of the territorial government in "*...seeking associate membership in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States*

and observe status in Caribbean Community.." and the request by the Territory for further delegation of power by the Administering Power.

In light of this, the resolution requests the Administering Power to facilitate the participation of the Territory as appropriate, in various organizations, especially the OECS, CARICOM and the Association of Caribbean States (ACS).

The resolution notes "with satisfaction" the measures being taken by the Administering Power to assist the Territory in the present fiscal crisis and suggests further assistance by way of the provision of debt relief and loans; the need for the Territory to further the development of its offshore financial capabilities and the diversification of its economy is also recognised.

The resolution also draws attention to the opposition generated by the assumption by the Administering Power of submerged land in territorial waters and calls for the return of those marine resources to the people of the Territory; a further source of concern is the relatively high levels of poverty among the general population and among children.

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the Specialised Agencies and the International Institutions associated with the United Nations (A/RES/57/133)

The resolution notes resolutions of various United Nations bodies and committees as well as other international institutions and is aware of the need to facilitate the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and notes in addition that a large number of Non Self-governing Territories are Small Island States.

The resolution welcomes the assistance extended to Non Self-Governing Territories by agencies and institutions and their participation as observes in world conferences, but because of the size of many of these Territories, advocates continuous assistance to help them achieve their aim of sustainable development.

The right of the people of the Territories to self determination entails "*...as a corollary, the extension of all appropriate assistance to these peoples..*" and thus specialised agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations should "*...take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of the Territories..*" within their respective mandate. Assistance should be focused especially on the environmental problems facing these Territories, the impacts of natural disasters, ways to fight drug trafficking , money laundering and other illegal and criminal activities and the illegal exploitation of the marine resources of the Territories.

Administering Powers are requested to ensure that the Territories name appointed and elected representatives to participate in various global forums, that special assistance to these Territories be regarded as priority by the various institutions and organizations that are able to assist them, that every effort be made to accelerate progress in economic and social sectors of

these territories, and the Territories are encouraged to foster their capacities in disaster preparedness.

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (A/RES/57/140).

The resolution calls to mind the declaration of the period 2001-2010 as the second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and "*..the need to examine ways to ascertain the wishes of the peoples of the Non Self-Governing Territories on the basis of Resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization...*"

The resolution notes the importance of the Special Committee instituted to deal with the issue of decolonization and notes with concern, that the non participation of certain Administering Powers has hindered the work of the Committee.

The resolution reaffirms that the "*..existence of colonialism in any form or manifestation, including economic exploitation, is incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights..*"

The resolution calls for continuous examination of the political, economic and social situation in Non Self-Governing Territories and recommends to the General Assembly "*..the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those territories to exercise their to self-determination, including independence...*". Further, seminars should be conducted in the Territories to familiarise the people with the work of the Special Committee and missions dispatched to these Territories, in accordance with relevant resolutions, while eliciting support among governments and relevant organizations and institutions.

The resolution then requests all Administering Powers to cooperate with the Special Committee, to ensure that their economic activities do not adversely affect the interests of the people of Territories, but in fact promotes their development. Further the unalienable rights of the people of Territories should be safeguarded and guaranteed, including the right to their natural resources and that military activities should not run counter to the rights and interests of the people of the Territory concerned. The visits by the United Nations missions to territories remain an effective means of ascertaining the situation in Territories as well as the wishes and aspirations of its people so the resolution calls upon Administering Powers to "*..continue to cooperate with the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and to facilitate visiting mission to the territories.*"

Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self Governing Territories (A/RES/57/132).

The resolution reaffirms that under the Charter of the United Nations the Administering Powers have the responsibility to "*..promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants of the Territories under their administration and to protect the*

human and natural resources of those Territories against abuses.." (the natural resources being the natural heritage of the people, including indigenous people), and that any economic activity that has a negative impact on the people of Territory and their right to self determination, is contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter.

The need to foster economic stability, diversification and strengthening of the economy of each territory is noted, as is the valuable contribution that foreign economic investment can make to the socio-economic development of the people of the Territories, but reiterates that the "*..damaging exploitation and plundering of the marine and other natural resources of the Non-Self Governing Territories..*" is "*...a threat to the integrity and prosperity of these Territories..*".

Activities that will affect the quality of life/natural resources of the people of the Territories should be done in collaboration with the people of the Territory in question.

Promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development (A/RES/57/261)

The resolution recalls global conferences as well as those dealing specifically with SIDS issues, relevant resolutions and the World Summit on Sustainable Development and its accompanying documents.

Reference is made to the Law of the Sea Convention and acknowledgement is given that ocean spaces are closely interrelated and need to be considered as a "*..whole through and integrated, interdisciplinary and intersectoral approach....*"

The resolution also makes reference to the fact that the Caribbean Sea impacts upon a large number of states, the vast majority being SIDS, with their own peculiar problems and challenges caused by small geographical size. The Caribbean economies are heavily dependent on the Caribbean Sea for their economic well-being, and while it has "*..a unique biodiversity and highly fragile ecosystem..*" it is subject to a variety of impacts including marine pollution, marine traffic and numerous an conflicting socio-economic uses. The considerable "*...number and interlocking character of the maritime areas under national jurisdiction where Caribbean countries exercise their rights and duties under international law, present a challenge for the effective management of the resources..*", and necessarily lends to a regional cooperative effort among Caribbean countries for its continued protection.

There is a need therefore to support a concept of the "*...Caribbean Sea as an area of special importance, in the context of sustainable development.....in conformity with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea....*".

The resolution welcomed the decision by the ACS to establish a Working Group of Experts on the Caribbean Sea Initiative, and calls upon the international community to support the Group, recognising the "*..importance of the Caribbean Sea to present and future generations and its importance to the heritage and continuing economic well-being and sustenance of people living in the area...*". The resolution therefore calls upon Caribbean States to prioritise action on

marine pollution from land-based sources and accede to conventions thereto as quickly as possible and calls upon the "*..United Nations system and the international community to assist, as appropriate, Caribbean countries and their regional organizations in their efforts to ensure protection of the Caribbean Sea from degradation as a result of pollution from ships, in particular through the illegal release of oil and other harmful substances.....in violation of international rules and standards...*".

The resolution notes and supports the recently established Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism, calls upon States to take into consideration the Convention on Biological Diversity to develop programs to halt the loss of marine biodiversity, and invites the international community and organizations within the United Nations system to assist Caribbean countries "*...in becoming parties to the relevant Conventions and Protocols and to implement them effectively;*"